

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

(1) A method comprising the steps of:

providing a reception area;

receiving an item;

5 placing said item at a certain location within said reception area;

providing a status indicator having one of a plurality of values;

10 placing a location determination device upon said item, effective to allow the item to be quickly located within said reception area; and

shipping said item only if said status indicator has a certain value.

15 (2) The method of claim 1 wherein said item comprises a vehicle.

(3) The method of claim 2 wherein said item is to be shipped to a certain destination and wherein said method further comprises the step of storing said certain destination.

20 (4) The method of claim 3 wherein said item is to be shipped by a transport carrier to said certain destination, said method further comprising the steps of:

assigning said item to a transport carrier based upon said stored certain destination.

25 (5) The method of claim 4 further comprising the step of generating a report including the location of said item.

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(6) The method of claim 5 wherein said transport carrier comprises a railcar.

(7) A method for shipping an item to a certain destination comprising the steps of:

5 providing a first identification code for said item;
providing a second identification code for said certain destination;

providing a device;

placing said device onto said item; and

10 communicating said first and second identification codes to said device; and

using said device to locate said item and to assign said item to a conveyance, effective to ship said item to said certain destination.

15 (8) The method of claim 7 wherein said item comprises a vehicle.

(9) The method of claim 7 further comprising the steps of:

20 providing a third identification code representing a status of said vehicle; and

communicating said third identification code to said device, thereby allowing said status of said vehicle to be selectively ascertained.

25 (10) The method of claim 9 wherein said first, second and third identification codes are selectively stored within a database.

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(11) The method of claim 10 further comprising the steps of:

providing a fourth identification code representing a location of said vehicle within a yard; and

5 communicating said fourth identification code to said device, thereby allowing said location of said vehicle within said yard to be selectively ascertained.

(12) The method of claim 11 further comprising the step of altering said fourth identification code in response to said vehicle being moved within said yard.

(13) A method for shipping a vehicle comprising the steps of:

providing a first code representing an identification number of said vehicle;

15 providing a location determination device;

placing said location determination device upon said vehicle;

receiving and storing said vehicle;

20 storing said first code and said second code within a database;

cross-referencing said first code to said second code;

providing a third code which represents a destination of said vehicle;

25 storing said third code within said database and within said location determination device;

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providing a fourth code which represents a status of
said vehicle;

storing said fourth code within said database; and

utilizing said database and said location
5 determination device to selectively locate and ship said
vehicle.

(14) The method of claim 13 wherein said location
determination device comprises a transceiver.

(15) The method of claim 13 wherein said fourth code may
10 be selectively altered effective to selectively prevent
said shipment of said vehicle.

(16) The method of claim 15 wherein said vehicle is held
within a yard and further comprising the steps of:

providing a fifth code representing a location of
15 said vehicle within said yard; and

selectively storing said fifth code within said
location determination device effective to allow said
vehicle to be located within said yard.

(17) The method of claim 16 wherein said fifth code may
20 be selectively altered, effective to represent a movement
of said vehicle within said yard.

(18) The method of claim 13 further comprising the step
of creating a sixth identification code having a certain
value which indicates said shipment of said vehicle.

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